## the identification of cultivated plants. il.

the genus triticum l.
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ABSTRACT:
Comparative observations on 26 characters have been recorded for 1, 24 and 27 varieties of Triticum pyramidale Delile, T. durum Desf., and T. vulgare Vill. respectively and used in the construction of dichotomous non-indented keys for their identification. None of the varieties involved are identical, and awn length is the only character found that can roughly separate the varieties of $T$. durum from those of $T_{\text {. }}$ vulgare, being 11 cm or more in the former and 10 cm or less in the latter.

## INTRODUCTION

There are 20 Triticum species with well over 30000 cultivated races and varieties (Airy Shaw, 1973). They are distributed mainly around the Mediterranean basin, although some have been domesticated in a much wider area ranging from the borders of the arctic circle to near the equator (Kent, 1966).

In the most widely accepted classification of the genus (Kent, 1966; Aykroyd and Doughty, 1970), there are 3 main groups incorporating the diploid, tetraploid and hexaploid taxa with 14,28 and 42 chromosomes respectively. However, the distinction between the classification of wheats and their identification has not been clear since the same arrangement has also provided the main identificatory tool for members of this genus and precious little has so far been done to construct practicable keys for them. Clearly, while chromosome numbers may be useful for classificatory purposes, they can at best be of limited identificatory value because they are far from easily observable and liable to change with various types of natural and artificial stimuli.

Interested as we are in the identification of cultivated plants, we aimed at the generation of dichotomous

[^0]non-indented keys to the wheats grown in Egypt as well as some representative varieties from the main regions where wheat is commercially grown. The general policy adopted in character scoring and key construction has previously been outlined by El-Gazzar (1976). It is hoped that the present work will initiate other urgently needed studies involving as many wheat races and varieties from other parts of the world as possible.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Well-authenticated grains of 52 varieties (listed in Table 1) have been collected from various sources, and raised simultaneously under the same environmental conditions at the experimental fields of the Ministry of Agriculture in Bahteem. They belong to Triticum vulgare Vill. (27 varieties), $T$. durum Desf. ( 24 varieties) and T. pyramidale Delile (1 variety). Voucher specimens are kept in the herbarium of the Department of Agricultural Botany, Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar University, where this work has been carried out.

Most of the characters recorded for these plants (see Table 2) are of the type that can be easily observed by independent workers (i.e. users of the keys based on them) and require little more than an ordinary magnifying lens and a ruler. However, some features of the glumes and flag leaves necessitated their clearing in warm lactic acid prior to microscopic examination. Pollen grains from mature anthers have been warmed on a slide in $5 \% \mathrm{KOH}$ solution and stained in $1 \%$ safranin, with the use of glycerin-jelly as mounting medium.

## OBSERVATIOINS

The following is a brief account of some of the characters recorded comparatively for the 52 varieties of Triticum in Appendix I:

## A. Vegetative morphology

1. The stem:

The hight of the plant has been estimated as the average of 10 measurements of stem length (from stem base to tip of the spike excluding the awns), and ranges from 55 cm in $\mathbb{T}$. vulgare $v$. PM2R to 175 cm in $T$. durum $v$. arotha, although most varieties have stems $\overline{85-115} \mathrm{~cm}$ high. The number of internodes is constant for each variety and differs from one variety to the next, being 3, $4,5,6$ or 7 . Although the only two varieties with stems consisting of more than 5 internodes have also the highest stems in the present sample (i.e. T. durum vars. minodom and arotha), there seems to be no directrelationship between the hight of the stem and the number of its internodes: For instance, while the stems of the 2
varieties T. durum vars. duker 7 and duker 11 are only 85 and 86 cm high and consist of 5 internodes each, there are 8 varieties whose stems are 115 cm high or more and have only 4 internodes. Therefore, as a contribution from variation in internode length the averages of at least 10 length measurements of each of the terminal and basal internodes for all 52 varieties have been scored. The longest and shortest terminal internodes measure 32 cm in T . durum v . arotha and 10 cm in T. vulgare v . PM2R respectively; these two varieties also have the longest $(26 \mathrm{~cm})$ and shortest ( 3.7 cm ) basal internodes respectively. Some duker varieties (e.g. 1-3, 8, 10-15, 49 and 52) have conspicuously basal nodes. As regards stem colour, two categories are easily distinguishable: (i) pure white, yellow to golden yellow, and (ii) pale violet to dark purple.
2. Flag leaves:

The length and width of the flag leaf vary considerably in different varieties ranging in length from 18 to 38.5 cm , and in width between 1.5 and 3.1 cm . The number of main veins entering the base of the flag leaf seems to be constant for each variety and ranges between 38 and 87 in the 52 varieties under investigation, with the majority of them having 50-70 veins per leaf. It is noticeable, however, that the number of veins in flag leaves bears no obvious relationship to their width: 18 varieties have flag leaves 2 cm broad and traversed by 15 of the 30 numbers of veins encountered in the 52 varieties, including the highest and lowest numbers (i.e. 87 and 38 respectively), and the same number of veins (e.g. 46) can be found in varieties ( $T$. durum $v$. duker 13, T. durum v. duker 49, T. vulgare $v$. Africa mayo composite IV and T. vulgare v. mabrouk) with flag leaves whose width covers the full range observed in the 52 varieties (i.e. $1.5-3.1 \mathrm{~cm}$ ).

> B. Spikes and spikelets

Spike and spikelet morphology differs tremendously in different wheat varieties and has a highly discriminative value for members of this genus. Mature spikes (i.e. immediately prior to fertilization) may be fusiform or oblong in outline and erect, curved or drooping in position. They may be richly dense with spikelets, moderately dense or lax. Furthermore, the glumes vary in colour between white to yellowish and brown, with most T. vulgare varieties possessing brown glumes. The range of variation in glume dimensions is $6-10 \mathrm{~mm}$ in length, $1.5-4.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ in width, with the glume peak length ranging between 0.5 mm and 7.0 mm . However, the glumes of 44 varieties are $7-9$ mm long, those of 22 varieties are $2-3 \mathrm{~mm}$ broad, with the glume peak $1-3 \mathrm{~mm}$ long in 39 varieties. Glume apex is invariably awned in the varieties studied, and varies in
shape between obtuse and acuminate, with some varieties possessing the intermediate case of acute glume apex. Awns may be toothed or toothless, and white-pale yellow or brown-black. Awn length has been scored as the average of 10 measurements of awns taken from different mature spikes for each variety, although fluctuation in awn length in the various spikes is remarkably limited. The longest awns measure 22.0 cm in $T$. durum v. duker 52 while the shortest are found in T. vulgare v. snova 64 and measure only 5.5 cm . However, awn length of most varieties falls within 7 to 14 cm . It is worth pointing out that awn length provides the only character listed in Table 1 which can help separate (though not absolutely) the varieties of $T$. durum from those of T. vulgare: 20 of the 23 varieties (i.e. $86.9 \%$ ) of the former species have awns 11 cm or more in length, whereas of the 26 varieties of the latter no less than 24 (i.e. $92.3 \%$ ) have awns 10 cm or less in length. The only variety of T. pyramidale studied (baladi 116) has 15 cm long awns.

## C. Kernels

Features recorded from the kernels concern their size and colour. All size measurements (length, thickness and size of 100 kernels) have been taken as the average of 10 readings for each variety. Here again, Kernel dimensions taken from different spikes of the same variety showed only slight fluctuation. Kernel length ranges between 5.5 and 8.5 mm , with most varieties having kernels $6-7 \mathrm{~mm}$ long. Similarly, kernel thickness varies from 2.5 mm in T. vulgare vars. MD474, PM2B and chenodo 70 to 3.6 mm in T. durum vars. duker 8 and duker 52. The 4 categories of kernel colour (i.e. yellow, amber yellow, brown and amber brown) commonly recognized in wheats have also been observed in the present sample of varieties.

## D. Pollen grains

With the rapid and simple method used here for the preparation of pollen grains for microscopic examination, the use of some palynological features in wheat identification poses little or no problems. In any case, it will be noticed from the keys presented in this article that we resorted to the single character recorded from pollen grains (pollen diameter) only when it provided the best practical means for the discrimination between some varieties. Appendix I shows that some varieties have pollen grains twice as large as those of others. For example, while the grains of T. vulgare v. inia measure $96 u$ in diameter, those of 6 varieties (e.g. T. durum v. duker 4, T. vulgare v. PM2R) are only 48 u in diameter.

## THE KEYS

In view of the relatively large number of varieties involved in the present study, they have been divided into 4 groups and a separate key has been constructed for each group.

## Key to groups I-IV



## Group I (5 varieties)

1. Awn toothed, basal internode 17 cm long, 55
veins or less in flag leaf, kernel 2.7 mm thick 2.
Awn toothless, basal internode at least 23 cm
long, at least 60 veins in flag leaf, kernel
3.2 mm thick
2. 
3. Basal node swollen, spike fusiform, flag leaf

39-veined, glume peak 5 mm long . . . . . . Duker 3
Basal internode not swollen, spike oblong,
flag leaf 55-veined, glume peak 1.5 mm
Duker 4
3. Stem white, no lodging, spike moderately dense, pollen diameter 64 u .
Stem purple, lodging present, spike lax,
pollen 56 u in diameter
kubanka
4. Spike curved, glume apex acuminate, flag leaf 65-veined
arotha
Spike drooping, glume apex acute, flag
leaf 82-veined mindom

## Group II (20 varieties)

1. Stem purple . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 .

Stem white
2. Basal node swollen . . . . . . . . . . . . 3 .

Basal node not swollen . . . . . . . . . 4.
3. Spike curved, terminal internode 27 cm lon

Spike erect, terminal internode 16 cm long
4. Glumes and awns brown

| Duker 1 |
| :--- |
| Duker 2 |

Glumes and awns white
5.
5. Awn toothed, 12 cm long, spike drooping, flag leaf 26 cm long, $87-\mathrm{veined}$, glume
peak 0.5 mm long
Duker 7
Awn toothless, 6.5 cm long, spike erect, flag leaf 18 cm long, 46-veined, glume
peak 4 mm long
Mabrouk
6. Awn toothless, no lodging ..... Bajio 67
Awn toothed, stem lodging7.
7. Spike drooping, kernel amber yellow, stem
60 cm long, glume peak 4 mm long, pollenPM2B
Spike curved, kernel brown, stem 85 cm long,
glume peak 1.5 mm , pollen diameter 56 u$\frac{\text { PM1 } 2}{9 .}$
8. Awn dark-coloured10.
9. Spike oblong, curved, glumes and kernel brown, stem 95 cm long, glume peak 6 mm long ..... PM8
Spike fusiform, erect, glumes white, kernelamber yellow, stem 75 cm long, glume peak
2 mm long blue silver
10. Awn $10-15 \mathrm{~cm}$ long ..... 11.
Awn $5-9 \mathrm{~cm}$ long ..... 12.
11. Awn toothless, spike curved, kernel amber brown, glume $4 \times 6 \mathrm{~mm}$, obtuse, stem 115 cm long, terminal internode 22 cm long, basal 15 cm long, flag leaf 38 -veined Duker 7Awn toothed, spike erect, kernel yellow,glumes $10 \times 1.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, acute, stem 65 cm long,terminal internode 14 cm long, basal 8 cmlong, flag leaf with more than 50 veinsDuker 9
12. Awn toothless, glume peak 1 mm long ..... 13.
Awn toothed, glume peak 2-3 mm long ..... 16.
13. Spike fusiform, pollen 64-96 u in diameter ..... 14.
Spike oblong, pollen diameter 48 u ..... 15.
14. Stem 110 cm long with 5 internodes, flag
leaf 27 cm long, 46 -veined . Africa mayo composite IV Stem 70 cm long with 3 internodes, flag leaf 24 cm long with 71 veins ..... inia 66
15. Spike erect, terminal internode 16 cmlong, flag leaf 50-veinedgiorgiop-ISpike drooping, terminal internode 26 cmlong, flag leaf 71 -veined .Africa mayo composite III
16. Stem $85-90 \mathrm{~cm}$ long, flag leaf at least24 cm long17.
Stem $55-60 \mathrm{~cm}$ long, flag leaf less than20 cm long19.
17. Internodes 5, basal and terminal ones 8 and 13 cm long respectively, kernel brown Duker 6
Internodes 3 , basal and terminal ones 6 and 14 cm long respectively, kernel yellow ..... 18.
18. Awn 5.5 cm long, spike curved, glumes acuminate ..... chenob 70
Awn 8.0 cm long, glumes acute, spikes erect ..... kushal 69
19. Kernel brown, glumes acute, pollen 48 u in diameter PM2R
Kernel amber yellow, glumes acuminate, pollen diameter 64 u ..... PM4
Group III (9 varieties)

1. Stem 86 cm long or less ..... 2.
Stem at least 110 cm long ..... 4.
2. Flag leaf 34 cm long ..... 3.
Flag leaf 29 cm long ..... Duker 14
3. Glumes brown, stem 86 cm long with 5 internodes, spike curved, pollen 64 u ..... Duker 11
Glumes white, stem 60 cm long with 3
internodes, spike erect, pollen 48 u mag 544. Stem 135 cm long, with 5 internodes andlodging, spike moderately denseStem 118 cm long or less, with 4 internodes;no lodging, spike lax (dense in Giza 145).
4. 
5. Awn less than 10 cm long, flag leaf 41 -veined ..... 6.
Awn at least 14 cm long, flag leaf with at least 46 veins ..... 7.
6. Spike fusiform, dense, erect, terminal
internode 13.6 cm long ..... Giza 145Spike oblong, lax, curved, terminal
internode c .20 cm long improved mokhtar
7. Glumes brown, acute, flag leaf 46 -veined Duker 13Glumes white, acuminate, flag leaf withat least 59 veins8.
8. Awn toothed, kernel amber yellow, pollen 56 u in diameter seven stars Awn toothless, kernel brown, pollen diameter 80 u ..... inia 156
Group IV (18 varieties)
9. Stem 118 cm long or less ..... 2.
Stem at least 130 cm long ..... 15.
10. Glume peak 6-7 mm long ..... 3.
Glume peak 0.5-3.0 mm long ..... 4.
11. Spikes oblong, curved, moderately dense,
awn toothed, kernel yellow, flag leaf 19
cm long Giza 150
Spikes fusiform, erect, dense, awn toothless,kernel brown, flag leaf twice as longPM9
12. Glumes white-yellow ..... 5.
Glumes brown ..... 9.
13. Spike dense ..... 6.
Spike lax ..... 8.
14. Stem 80 cm long, terminal internode 11.2 cm long, flag leaf 50 -veined, pollen diameter 72 u ..... snova 64
Stem 107-115 cm long, terminal internode in cm long or more, flag leaf with $61-63$ veins, pollen 56 u in diameter ..... 7.
15. Spike fusiform, kernel brown, glume acuminate, awn 7.5 cm long, flag leaf with 58 veins

PM11
Spike oblong, kernel yellow, glume obtuse,
awn twice as long, flag leaf $70-v e i n e d . ~ . b a l a d i ~$
116
9. Stem with 5 internodes
montana
Stem with 3 or 4 internodes
10.
10. Spike lax, oblong, erect, awn toothless

Duker 52 Spike dense or moderately dense, curved or drooping, fusiform, awn toothed
11.
11. Stem 118 cm long

Stem less than 95 cm long
i64 skevart
Awns dark brown or black, 6.5 cm long,
pollen 80 u in diameter . . . . . . . . .
Awns white-yellow, at least twice as
long, pollen 48-56 u in diameter . . . . 13.
13. Glumes acuminate, stem 93 cm long,
terminal internode 18 cm long, basal one
12 cm long, flag leaf 56-veined
Duker 10
Glumes acute, stem 85 cm long, terminal
internode 12 cm long, basal one 7 cm
long, flag leaf with 77-78 veins . . . . 14.
14. Kernel amber yellow, awn 12 cm long . . . . Duker 12

Kernel amber brown, awn 17 cm long . . . . $\frac{\text { Duker } 15}{16}$
15. Lodging present
16.

Lodging absent
17.
16. Glumes brown, obtuse, flag leaf with $4 \dot{6}$ veins, pollen diameter 56 u

Duker 49
Glumes white, acute, flag leaf with 78
veins, pollen diameter 72 u
spelemer
17. Spike lax, kernel amber yellow, glumes obtuse, awn 16.6 cm long
Spike dense, kernel brown , glumes
acuminate, awn 7 cm long . . . . . . . . MD 474

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Table 1. The 52 varieties of Triticum durum, T. vulgare and T. pyramidale studied, with each variety given a serial number.
T. durum

1. Duker 1
2. Duker 3
3. Duker 5
4. Duker 7
5. Duker 9
6. Duker 11
7. Duker 13
8. Duker 15
9. Duker 52
10. arotha
11. ACME
12. L64 skevart
13. Duker 2
14. Duker 4
15. Duker 6
16. Duker 8
17. Duker 10
18. Duker 12
19. Duker 14
20. Duker 49
21. giorgiop-I 210861
22. mindom
23. spelemer
24. kubanka
T. vulgare
25. africa mayo composite III 26. africa mayo compositeIV
26. MD 474
27. mabrouk
28. PM2R
29. PM8
30. PM11
31. PM14
32. chenob 70
33. Giza 144
34. Giza 148
35. inia 66
36. mag 54
37. montana
38. inia 156
39. baladi 116.

## T. pyramidale

Table 2. Summary of 26 characters as coded and recorded comparatively for 52 varieties of Triticum durum, . vulgare and T. pyramidale in Appendix I.

## A. Qualitative characters

1. Stem white + / purple -.
2. Basal node swollen + / not so -.
3. Stem lodging present + / absent -.
4. Spike fusiform + / oblong -.
5. Awn toothed + / toothless -.

Table 2 (cont.)
6. Glumes white-yellowish + / brown -.
7. Awn white-yellow + / brown-black -.
B. Exclusive multistate characters
8. Number of internodes ( 5 categories: $3,4,5,6$ and 7).
9. Spike density (3 categories: dense $1 /$ moderately dense 2 / lax 3).
10. Spike position (3categories: erect 1 / curved 2 / drooping 3).
11. Kernel colour (4 categories: yellow 1 / amber yellow 2 / brown 3 / amber brown 4).
12. Glume apex (3 categories: obtuse 1 / acute 2 / acuminate 3 ).

## C. Quantitative characters

13. Stem length (55-175 cm).
14. Length of terminal internode ( $10-32 \mathrm{~cm}$ ).
15. Length of basal internode ( $3.7-26.0 \mathrm{~cm}$ ).
16. Awn length $(5.5-22.0 \mathrm{~cm})$.
17. Number of veins in flag leaf (38-87).
18. Length of flag leaf ( $18.0-38.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ ).
19. Width of flag leaf ( $1.5-3.1 \mathrm{~cm}$ ).
20. Kernel length ( $5.7-8.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ ).
21. Kernel thickness ( $2.5-3.6 \mathrm{~mm}$ ).
22. Size of 100 kernels ( $26-29 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$ ).
23. Glume length $(6-10 \mathrm{~mm})$.
24. Glume width $(1.5-4.5 \mathrm{~mm})$.
25. Length of glume peak ( $0.5-7.0 \mathrm{~mm}$ ).
26. Pollen diameter (48-96 u).
===========================================================12

## APPENDIX I

Comparative observations on 26 characters of 52 varieties of Triticum durum, T. vulgare and T. pyramidale. Serial numbers assigned to varieties and to characters correspond with those given in Tables 1 and 2 respectively. Symbols used to denote character states are in accordance with those in Table 2. Missing and inapplicable attributes are represented by points.

| vars. |  | Qualitative |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { and } \\ & 5 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | multistate$6 \quad 7 \quad 8$ |  |  | characters |  |  | 12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  |  |  | 9 | 10 | 11 |  |
| 1 | - | + | - | + | + | + | + | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | - | + | - | + | + | + | $+$ | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | - | + | - | + | + | + | - | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | - | - | - | - | + | + | + | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 5 | + | - | - | + | - | + | + | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |

$\frac{\text { Appendix } I \text { (cont.) }}{\text { vars. }}$
vars. Qualitative and multistate characters

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Quantitative characters
$\begin{array}{lllllllllllll}13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 & 21 & 22 & 23 & 24 & 25\end{array}$


Appendix I (cont.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  | tita | ive | ch | act |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |  |  | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 47 | 60 | 10.6 | 5.0 |  | 62 | 34.0 | 3.0 | 6.5 | 3.5 |  | 10.0 | 3.5 | 3.0 |  |
| 48 | 80 | 11.2 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 50 | 30.0 | 3.0 | 5.7 |  |  | 8.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 72 |
| 49 | 110 | 17.0 | 10.0 | 6.5 | 61 | 30.0 | 1.5 | 7.1 | 3.3 |  | 8.0 | 3.5 | 1.5 | 56 |
| 50 | 116 | 20.3 | 11.0 | 17.0 | 70 | 29.4 | 2.2 | 6.0 | 2.5 | 27 | 9.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 56 |
| 51 | 118 | 21.3 | 12.0 | 20.0 | 59 | 30.4 | 2.4 | 7.0 | 3.2 | 28 | 9.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 80 |
| 52 | 95 | 16.0 | 9.2 | 15.0 | 70 | 31.0 | 2.2 | 7.0 | 3.2 |  | 7.0 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 56 |


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